



# Thank you for being a Friend!

Friends of Vintage Gardens make the difference

The maintenance of a two-acre rose garden and more than 4000 plants is a daunting task, especially for one person. But I have been blessed with a group of friends who lighten my load in many ways. The Friends of Vintage Gardens organized in about 2003 in response to the obvious needs of our garden for more care. They arrive en masse now twice a year, and sometimes one by one throughout the year to weed, mulch, plant, label, and to enjoy the roses. Sharing the workload with others renews my resolve to keep this garden alive, but sharing the roses makes every moment of the work worthwhile!



Friends come through many doors, and not all of them work the soil with me. Some take photographs and help me to continue to improve the quality of our website and catalogue. Some send roses; varieties that they know we've lost, or never grown, in the hopes that the collection of roses remains as full and complete



as possible. Others offer their expertise, sharing their talents for marketing, keeping me up to date on problems with our website, suggesting ways that we can improve both our garden and our nursery.

In April of 2008 the Friends' 'Dirt Day' gathered a remarkable group to help dig holes for the replanting of our modern Hybrid Teas and Floribundas; nearly 700 plants were taken from pot ghetto to a life in the soil. This spring Luanne Wilson, our fearless leader of the Friends, has announced two dirt days to help with weeding, mulching, labeling and more planting. These will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>, from about 9 or 10 am until mid-afternoon. Everyone brings a dish for a grand pot-luck lunch. The Friends always welcome anyone who wants to join in; just email to Luanne for details.

Meanwhile some of the Friends have already appeared this winter to weed and mulch, and the progress has been impressive. One brave soul, who requests anonymity, has been here once a week or more to learn pruning and to help with that endless task. (Yes, I prune, and it takes extra time to be light-handed!)

I count myself very fortunate to have had such support in keeping the roses going. They do this for the enjoyment of all, and if you come to my garden in May you'll see the hands of many in each rosy corner. Thank you all for being such kind and generous friends!

—Gregg Lowery